



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

November-December 2024

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**President:** Dennis O'Reilly; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Jack McGovern; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary:** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bill Hallahan; **Marshal:** Tim Lynch; **Sentinel:** Neil Hornung; **Webmaster:** Bob Fitzgerald; **Organizer:** Tim Lynch; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([billhalpin@irshcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irshcultureva.org))

**Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States** for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be "one nation under God." This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



**Congratulations** to our Brothers who joined the Gen. T.F. Meagher Division on November 19<sup>th</sup>: Sean Morrow and Bill Tibbatts.

December 7, 521: Birth of Saint Columcille, Irish bard and monk. The Virginia AOH award for sustained superior performance is the St. Colmcille Award!



### Division Administration:

**Quorum:** This is the minimum number of brothers that must be present at meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. Without a quorum the division cannot vote on critical issues, administer the Shamrock Degree, elect officers, pay bills, or approve the minutes of previous meetings. We need you to attend in person or, if needed, virtually using the Internet connection

provided with the “Call to Meeting” alerts. Our meetings are to the point, generally lasting one hour and followed by a social time with snacks and beverages.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2025 DUES:** At the November 2024 meeting our brothers unanimously voted to increase our annual dues to \$50 for brothers who have not yet celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. As required in division by-laws, brothers 75 and older pay state and national per capita (\$21), an amount that can change year -to-year. The increase was deemed to be necessary as administrative costs have increased, e.g. state and national per capita taxes, cost of pins, name badges, stamps, etc. Reminder, 2025 dues are payable now!



**Volunteerism:** All Hibernians volunteer to join our Brotherhood. We all pledge our “sacred word and honor” to be zealous in supporting the interests of the General Meagher Division. Certainly, many of us have obligations to family, employment, church, etc. However, when something truly matters to us, as Hibernians we’ll always find the time to do it. Good examples of division events requiring participation include the annual Memorial Mass, commemorating the Irish Brigade/Battle of Fredericksburg, Irish American Heritage Month, and the Annual Halfway to St. Patrick Day . “Showing up” for these events will take about two hours’ time and are effective, public displays of our motto.



**Fund Raising:** The Division has two major fundraising activities each year.

1. The **Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic** will be played at Lake of the Woods on April 28, 2025. Success requires every brother’s (non-golfer too) commitment for some time and some effort.

- **Starting now!** Every brother has doctors, dentists, favorite restaurants, and commercial vendors. Each one of these can be a hole sponsor for our tournament, or at least can donate something (dinner for two?) for our raffle. For hole sponsors, we’ll place signage on the golf course that acknowledges the donation and advertises the sponsor. All supporters are noted on our website. Hole Sponsorship will cost about \$125.00
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>: Volunteers (about 3-4r hours’ time) is needed to assist in placing/retrieving sponsors’ signage at tee boxes, registering golfers, selling items to enhance the golf experience (“red tees”, lengths of string, etc. ), and placing “goody bags” on golf carts.

2. The **Annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle** also requires a commitment to sell *at least* 15 raffle tickets. We also need volunteers to sell tickets after Mass at one of our four parishes. Ideally, we need at least two brothers per church per Mass. The parish liaison will arrange sales dates (two weekends per parish usually in June and August) and ask for your help.

3. **In Summary:** The General Meagher Division membership is 55 brothers. With minimal effort by every brother, we could sell 900 raffle tickets (\$7500) and 110 hole sponsors (\$13,200!). Keep in mind this money is distributed to our charities.

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### **Parish Support:**

Our Parish Liaisons are busy distributing donations to pastors of our four parishes and to the St. Matthew Baby Closet. Every year the division donates about \$2500 divided among the parishes.



Here we see Frank Connors and family with Father Ebersol at St. Matthew and Bob Fitzgerald with Father Ziegler at St Patrick.

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### **Annual Wreath Presentation at Irish Brigade Memorial**

Following our decades long tradition of honoring the Irish Brigade sacrifices on December 13, 1862, Division President O'Reilly presented a wreath at the memorial followed by a talk centering on the Brigade and its impact on the evolution of Irish in America.



### Old House Tour

On November 1<sup>st</sup> several brothers and one spouse toured the Old House Winery and discovered there is more than expected at this vineyard. Ryan Kearney, Old House CEO led the group. First stop was the winery and then on to the distillery and whiskey bar, and later the “beer hall”, and finally the Irish Pub.

The group learned about the history of the vineyard and how the production of wines led to the distilling aspect. The distillery produces excellent corn whiskey (of this I know first-hand), Rum, Spiced Rum, and a Rum/Coffee; Virginia version of a Tequila, Vodka, and Grog (from the “original recipe”). The distillery tasting room is really a museum created and decorated to honor of our World War II Veterans.



